

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-2 are amended. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Office Action's indication that claims 2-6, 8-17 and 20-24 define patentable subject matter. However, for at least the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

A. The Office Action rejects claims 1, 7 and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 3,873,818 to Barnard. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that allowable subject matter from claim 2 is incorporated in claim 1. For at least that reason, Applicant respectfully submits claim 1 defines patentable subject matter. Claims 7 and 18-19 depend from claim 1 and therefore also define patentable subject matter for at least that reason as well as their additionally recited features. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 7 and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney, **Carl R. Wesolowski**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP



Daniel Y.J. Kim
Registration No. 36,186
Carl R. Wesolowski
Registration No. 40,372

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, VA 20153-1200
703 502-9440 DYK/CRW:jld
Date: December 11, 2001